

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 11, 2011

The Honorable Lisa P. Jackson
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Ariel Rios Building
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

We thank you for your attention to dioxin over the past two years, and for making the release of the EPA's long-delayed Dioxin Reassessment a priority so that any additional steps to protect the public from one of the most toxic chemicals known to man can be taken.

As you know, dioxin causes a wide array of adverse health effects in both animals and humans. Dioxin is considered to be a "human carcinogen" by the World Health Organization's International Agency for Research on Cancer and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Toxicology Program. According to the U.S. EPA draft report on dioxin's health effects, the levels of dioxin-like compounds found in the general population may cause a lifetime cancer risk as high as one in 1,000. This is 1,000 times higher than the generally acceptable risk level of one in a million. Dioxin also causes a wide range of non-cancer effects including reproductive, developmental, immunological, and endocrine effects in both animals and humans. Babies are exposed to dioxin in the womb, and infants are exposed to dioxin in breast milk. Dioxin builds up in our bodies over our lifetime and can remain there for many years, since the half-life of dioxin (the amount of time it takes for half of a given amount of dioxin to break down) in people ranges from seven to 11 years.

The American people have waited for more than twenty years for EPA to complete its reassessment of the potential health risks of human exposure to dioxin. In 2001, the EPA's Science Advisory Board sent a letter to EPA Administrator Whitman to "proceed expeditiously to complete and release" the report. More than nine years later, this document has still not been completed.

We were very pleased that under your leadership, the EPA has developed a "science plan" to finalize and release the dioxin reassessment. The science plan stated, "By the end of 2010, EPA expects to complete the final dioxin human health and exposure assessment and release it to the public, subject to further consideration of the science." Once finalized, the information in EPA's reassessment can be used to help protect the

public from adverse health effects of dioxin exposure. We are concerned EPA has missed this self imposed deadline to finalize and release the report by the end of 2010.

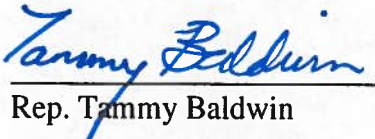
We understand the EPA is waiting for the EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) to complete its review of the EPA's response to the National Academies report on dioxin. Once this review is complete, we urge the EPA to move as quickly as possible to finalize and release the Dioxin Reassessment to the American public. We request your detailed timeline for finalizing and releasing the Dioxin Reassessment once the SAB review is complete.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns and for your commitment to human health and the environment.

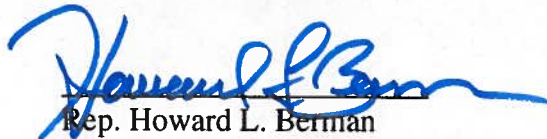
Sincerely,



Rep. Edward J. Markey


Rep. Gary Ackerman

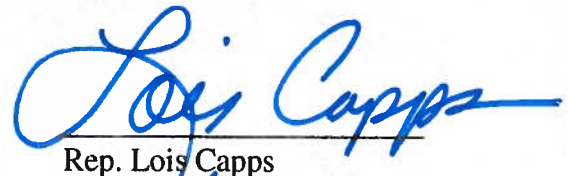

Rep. Tammy Baldwin


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Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo


Rep. Earl Blumenauer

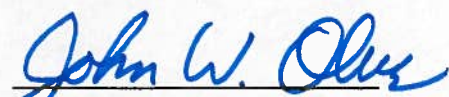

Rep. Lois Capps



Rep. Michael E. Capuano


Rep. Donna M. Christensen

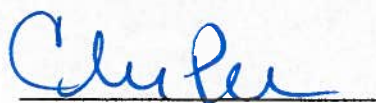

Rep. Russ Carnahan

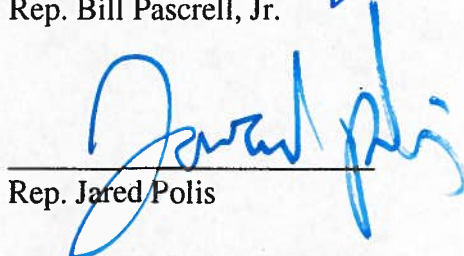

Rep. Gerry E. Connolly

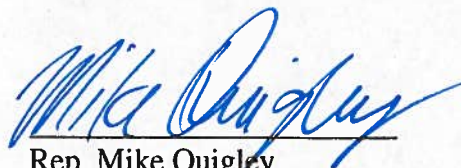

Rep. John Olver

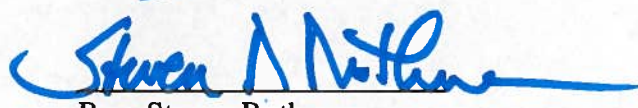

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr.

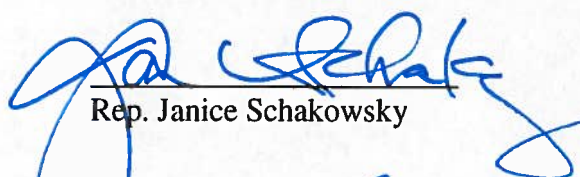

Rep. Bill Pascrell, Jr.

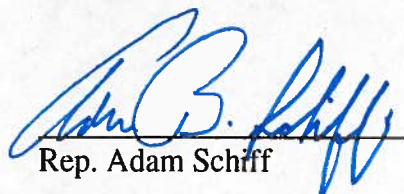

Rep. Chellie Pingree

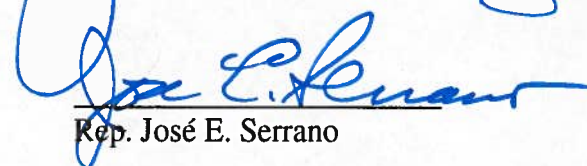

Rep. Jared Polis

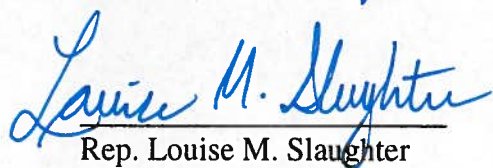

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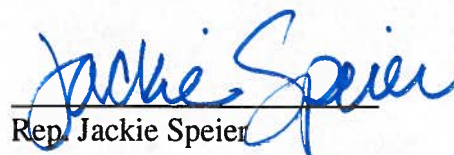

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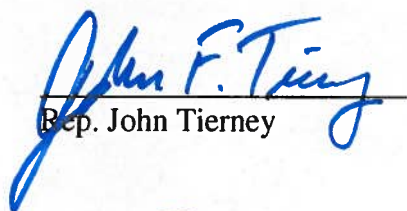

Rep. Janice Schakowsky

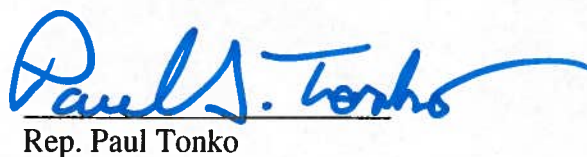

Rep. Adam Schiff


Rep. José E. Serrano


Rep. Louise M. Slaughter


Rep. Jackie Speier


Rep. John Tierney


Rep. Paul Tonko

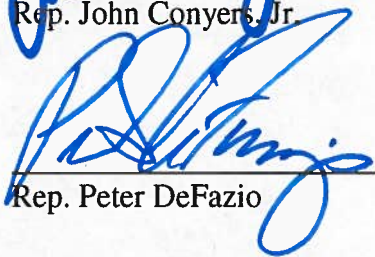

Rep. Edolphus Towns


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Rep. Nydia Valázquez


Rep. Chris Van Hollen



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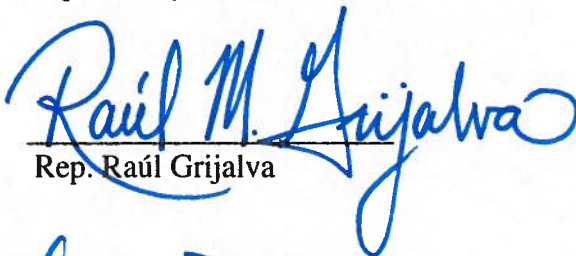

Rep. Peter DeFazio

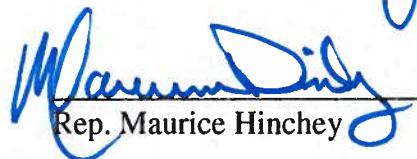

Rep. Rosa L. DeLauro


Rep. Keith Ellison

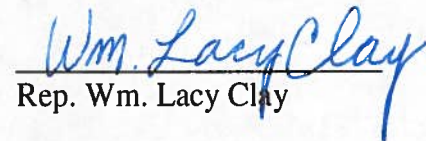

Rep. Sam Farr


Rep. Barney Frank


Rep. Raúl Grijalva

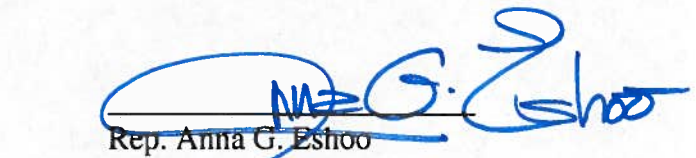

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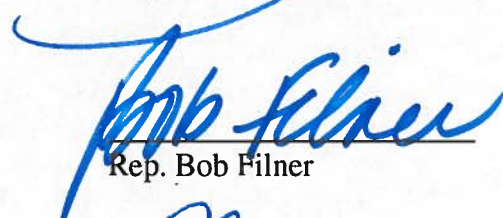

Rep. Steve Israel

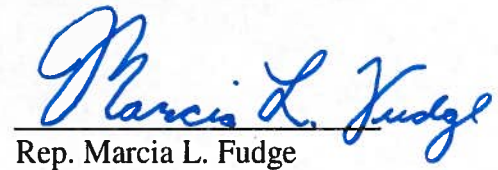

Rep. Wm. Lacy Clay


Rep. Diana DeGette


Rep. Ted Deutch


Rep. Anna G. Eshoo


Rep. Bob Filner


Rep. Marcia L. Fudge

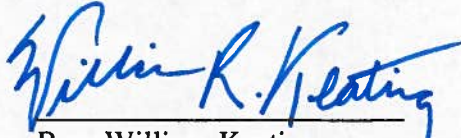

Rep. Alcee L. Hastings


Rep. Mike Honda

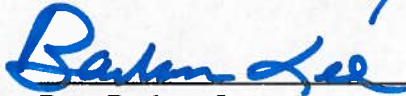

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson



Rep. Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.



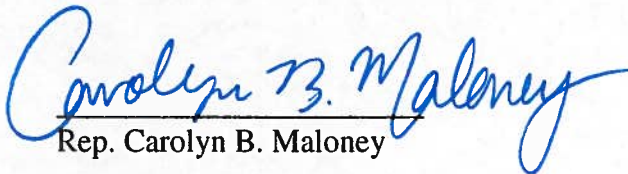
Rep. William Keating



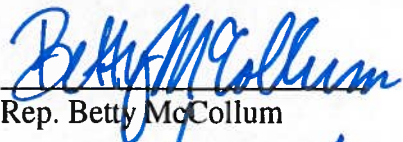
Rep. Barbara Lee



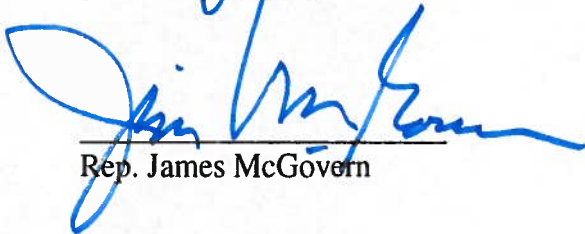
Rep. Sander Levin



Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney



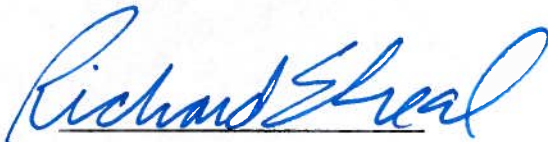
Rep. Betty McCollum



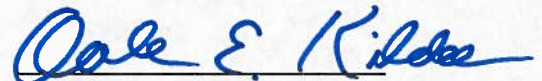
Rep. James McGovern



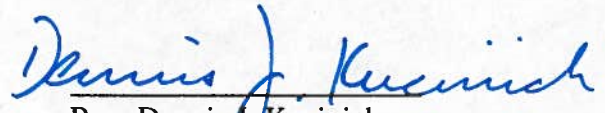
Rep. James Moran



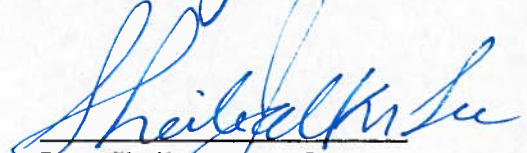
Rep. Richard Neal



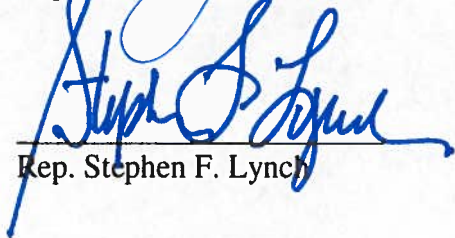
Rep. Dale Kildee



Rep. Dennis J. Kucinich



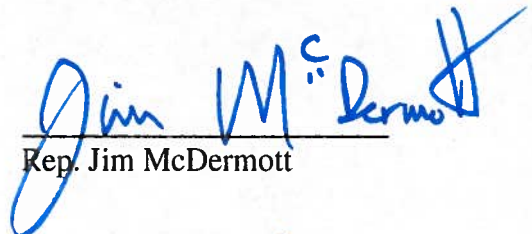
Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee



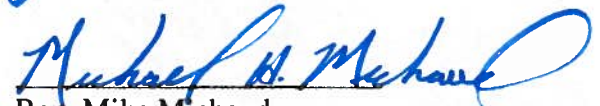
Rep. Stephen F. Lynch



Rep. Doris Matsui



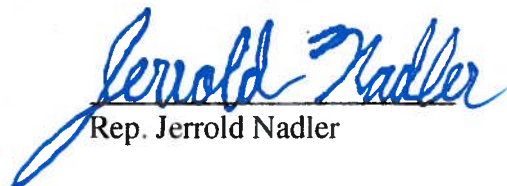
Rep. Jim McDermott



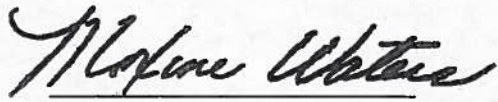
Rep. Mike Michaud



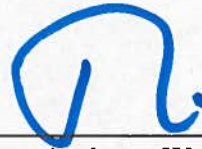
Rep. George Miller



Rep. Jerrold Nadler



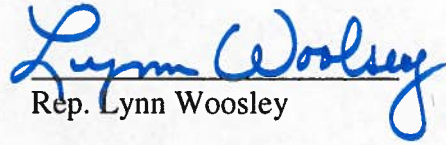
Rep. Maxine Waters



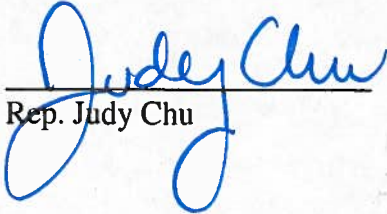
Rep. Anthony Weiner



Rep. Peter Welch



Rep. Lynn Woosley



Rep. Judy Chu



Rep. Mike Thompson